



UNITED STATES SENATOR ★ SERVING THE CITIZENS OF IDAHO

LARRY CRAIG

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NEWS RELEASE

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SENATE APPROVES EMERGENCY FUNDING

War on Terror, Craig-Wyden, and wildfire suppression supported

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congress approved the FY2007 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill today and sent it to the President for his signature. Because the surrender date provision has been removed, the President is expected to sign the bill.

In addition to funding continued operations in the War on Terror, the bill addresses several emergency needs. Two that are especially important to Idaho and Senator Larry Craig are an extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Craig-Wyden) and funds to cover expected wildfire suppression costs.

The bill extends the Craig-Wyden program for an additional year to the tune of \$425 million. Additionally, \$100 million in receipts are expected, making a total of \$525 million for the program. While Craig is disappointed that the longer-term reauthorization approved by the Senate was not included, he hopes Congress will approve that later this year. Craig said, “The federal government needs to meet its obligation to rural communities to provide for their share of schools and roads and to continue the Resource Advisory Committees, our most successful collaborative conservation effort to date.”

“I am grateful to Senator Craig for his hard work and leadership in securing this critical funding. He has been a champion for rural schools in Idaho,” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna said. “Our rural schools need this one-year extension of funds to keep quality teachers in the classroom and continue excellent programs in their schools.”

While timber-dependent communities struggle to survive, they often have to stand by and watch as their forests burn. \$465 million is provided in the bill to cover expected wildfire suppression costs for this fire season. Craig said, “In the past when fire suppression costs have been inadequately funded, other Forest Service and BLM accounts have been drained to fight fires. The effect is that many of the activities of our land managers stop – to the detriment of users and the health of our lands. This funding should help address that problem.”